



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

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GRAVES COUNTY COCAINE USER CONVICTED OF FIREARMS CHARGES

– 5 firearms found in truck and farms

PADUCAH, KY - **Randall H. Burchard**, age 61, of Hickory, Kentucky, in Graves County, was found guilty by a federal jury in United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, of knowingly possessing firearms while being addicted to or being an unlawful user of controlled substances, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a 3 day trial before Hon. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court.

U.S. Attorney Huber thanked the Paducah Police Department and the Mayfield Police Department for their work in "taking a cocaine user with five guns off the street. State, local and federal cooperation can reduce potential gun violence."

Burchard had been tried for knowingly possessing firearms on October 13, 2005, in McCracken County, Kentucky, and on October 28, 2005, and November 13, 2005, in Graves County, Kentucky. During the periods of time Burchard knowingly possessed the firearms, there was evidence that Burchard was unlawfully using cocaine. Drug paraphernalia had been found

in the motor vehicle, residence, or on the person of Burchard, in addition to evidence of the use of cocaine on various occasions. On October 13, 2005, a Ruger .30 caliber revolver was found in his vehicle. On October 28, 2005, 3 long guns were found on two farms associated with Burchard. On November 13, 2005, a .22 caliber revolver with an obliterated serial number was found in his vehicle.

The maximum potential penalties for each count are not more than 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Sparks. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Paducah Police Department and the Mayfield Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

Burchard is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Thomas B. Russell on October 23, at 11:45 a.m., in Paducah, Kentucky.

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